THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The Steel Development Fund (SDF) was *inter-alia* created for financing schemes, projects and other capital expenditure for modernisation, research and development, rehabilitation, diversification, renewals and replacements, balancing additions to capacity, major new investments or any other programmes for improving the quantum or technology or efficiency of production of iron and steel and or their capacity.

An amount of Rs. 10 crores out of the Steel Development Fund has been earmarked for setting up of Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute at Puri, Orissa whose main activities will be basically three-fold, *viz.*, (i) research and development; (ii) training and skill endorsement; and (iii) consultancy services in techno-economic and managerial division.

Duties and Levies on Steel

2879. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel alliance under CII has urged the Government to reduce duties and levies imposed on steel for rescuing the industry from the ongoing crisis; and

(b) the year wise breakup of duties and levies collected by Government during the last three years, with corresponding figures of saleable steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The Steel Industry Division of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has requested the Government to reduce custom duties on those inputs for steel making which are not available indigenously. They have also proposed reduction in excise duties on steel items used for rural consumption including housing.

(b) The year-wise breakup of duties and levies collected by the Government during the last three years, with corresponding figures of steel items, is given in the table below:

(In crore of Rupees)

Year	Tax Revenue *(net to centre)*	Revenue from Custom Duty on Steel Products $	Revenue From Excise Duty on Steel Products #
1998-1999	104652 (Actuals)	2390.59	4628.75
1999-2000	126469 (RE)	2244.66	5349.67
2000-2001	146209 (BE)	1851.85 (Provisional)	5628.82 (Provisional)

$ *Includes:* Primary material of iron and steel, iron & non-alloy steel, stainless steel, other alloy steel, hollow drill bars and rods and articles of iron & steel

\# *Includes:* Iron & steel and articles of iron & steel.

Russian Help for IISCO's Revival

2880. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister took up the issue of revival of IISCO with the Russian Government during his recent visit to Russia;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions;

(c) whether Russia is ready to help in modernizing the company;

(d) if so, the details of the agreement reached;

(e) whether the help includes grants, loans and technology transfer etc.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) During the State visit to the Russian Federation by Prime Minister of India in